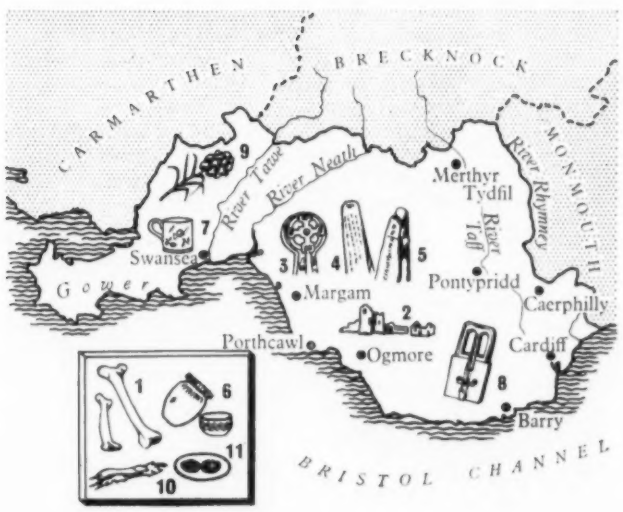
Painted by John Elwyn

Shell guide to GLAMORGAN

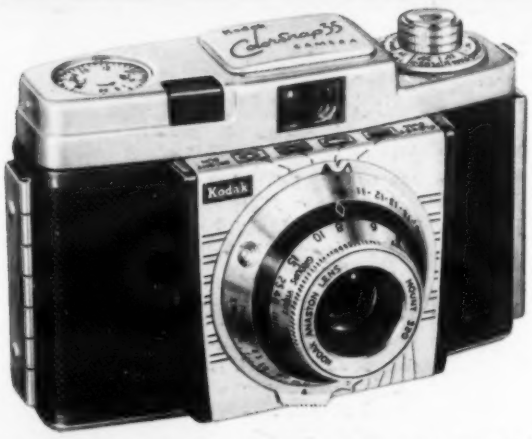


Glamorgan is *gwlad Morgan*, Morgan's land, after its British ruler in the 8th century. But the county's human tale goes back long before the British. In an Oxford museum lie the red-ochred bones (1) of the "Red Lady of Paviland"—in reality the bones of a young huntsman of the Old Stone Age, found along with mammoth bones in a cliff cave on the Glamorgan—or more exactly the Gower—coast. Neolithic and Bronze Age people liked the grazing and farming country of the Vale of Glamorgan. So did the British or Welsh (who became more or less Romanized in Glamorgan) and later on the Normans and the English, a history symbolized in this painting by Ogmore Castle (2), a conqueror's castle dating back to 1120, and by three engraved stones now in the museum at Margam: the Great Cross of Conbeline (3), a carved wheel cross of British Christianity (8th-12th century), the Bodvoc Stone (4) of about 550, commemorating the princely Briton named Bodvoc or Bodvocus, and a Roman milestone (5), which was re-inscribed in the Dark Ages to commemorate a Briton named Cantusus.

There is a contrast of vale and northern hill, of ancient farm land and those once despised gaunt hills which have given Glamorgan coal, wealth, factories and cities; a contrast, too, in the foreground objects—crude urns and cups (6) from Bronze Age barrows and painted pottery (7) from the famous Swansea works. Notice also a *crwth* (8), the ancient Welsh fiddle; one of the more peculiar wild flowers of Glamorgan, the Pearly Everlasting (9) from North America; and a favourite Glamorgan delicacy, laver, prepared from the laver seaweed (10), and delicious with lamb or mutton or bacon, or in little cakes with oatmeal (11).

The "Shell Guide to Wild Life", a monthly series depicting animals and plants in their natural surroundings, which gave pleasure to so many people, is published in book form by Phoenix House Ltd at 7/6. The "Shell Guide to Trees" and "Shell Guide to Flowers of the Countryside" are also available at 7/6 each. On sale at bookshops and bookstalls.

YOU CAN BE SURE OF SHELL *The key to the Countryside*



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